

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus useful in association with at least one netphone and at least one computer, the apparatus comprising:

a telephony interface for coupling the at least one netphone to an external telephone system;

a network interface for coupling the at least one computer to an external computer network; and

a local area network for interconnecting the at least one netphone, the at least one computer, the telephony interface and the network interface.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network interface is wireless.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network interface is based on a dial-up modem protocol.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network interface is based on a cable modem protocol

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network interface is based on an ISDN protocol.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network interface is based on an xDSL protocol.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network interface is based on an Ethernet protocol.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the external computer network is an Internet.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the external telephone system is a PSTN telephone system.
10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the external telephone system is a PBX telephone system.
11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the local area network is based on an Ethernet protocol.
12. The apparatus of claim 1 where the local area network is wireless.